

WALTON'S BOARD RESIGNS

WALTON AND Hersham will carry on despite the loss of the three man board of directors that formed the "limited company" running of the club. This followed a sharp twist to the usual story when a club's board interferes with the playing side. In most cases the manager goes, but this time after a row with boss Vince Craven, the board resigned.

Now only a gentlemen's agreement is holding up a new appointment. Walton have a sponsor but he is unwilling to come out in the open until they have obtained a seven year official lease from the council. At the moment they renew it yearly under a verbal agreement.

Bishop's Stortford are the other club with problems following the resignations of England striker Tony Bass and defender John Still to join Ilford, Bishop's 4-1 victims in the last Amateur Cup final. They are expected to make their debuts for Ilford at home to Dagenham in a re-arranged Rothmans Isthmian League match tonight (Tuesday). Their resignations came hard on the heels of that of secretary Brian Bayford.

These departures have, understandably, put the club in a turmoil and given manager Ted Hardy the task of rebuilding and uplifting the side with the first round of the FA Cup looming ahead.

Bromley, hit by the walkout of their manager, his assistant

and most of their first team squad, have appointed Tim Breen from Banstead as team manager. It has now become the Spartan League club's turn to suffer. Five of their squad — Danny McDermott, Steve O'Keeffe, Colin Garrod, Gerry Doran and Steve Parker have followed Breen to Hayes Lane.

Two more Rothmans Isthmian League clubs are on the verge of turning professional. They are Walthamstow Avenue and Ilford.

Walthamstow have had second thoughts following the shock of losing striker Micky Taylor to Leytonstone while Ilford are holding a "referendum" among their members. Their constitution demands a seven-eighths majority before they can change their status.

Horsham won their battle with the Sussex FA to withdraw two of their players from the county's side on Saturday. After taking their cases to the Football Association, the county was overruled and both played in the 5-0 win over Burgess Hill in the FA Cup.

The county claimed Colin Newstead and Barry Steer but Horsham were already without their experienced defender, Terry Stanley, and lost full back Dave Tregus, who was kicked by a horse and severely injured. Dave was rushed to hospital and had to have his spleen taken out. He is unlikely to play again this season.

Alf D'Arcy has quit as stadium manager to Enfield, but will carry on coaching their reserve team.

Walthamstow Avenue's centre back, Steve Cooper, has signed amateur forms for Charlton. Hayes have signed midfield player Terry Burton, formerly with Arsenal and Epping. He also had spells with Stevenage and Folkestone. Another newcomer to Church Road is striker Frank Seward from Hounslow.

Other signings . . . Brian Messom to Bromley. Hertford have signed Chris Hayden from Ilford. Harlow: Mike Young from Hemel Hempstead. Corinthian Casuals: John Ware, formerly with Chelsea, Folkestone and Ashford, and Andrew Horam. Carshalton have signed Ray Buckley, ex-Maidstone and Hastings, also Bill Wood, formerly with Dagenham.